

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 269194

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PO

SUBJECT: CALL BY SA CARNEIRO AND BALSEMAO ON SECRETARY
AND DEPUTY SECRETARY.

1. PPD LEADERS SA CARNEIRO AND BALSEMAO CALLED ON DEPUTY
SECRETARY AT 7 P.M. DECEMBER 3. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SEC-
RETARY STABLER, IBERIAN DIRECTOR LUKENS, AND SPECIAL
ASSISTANT TO DEPSEC DUEMLING ALSO PRESENT. SECRETARY THEN
RECEIVED VISITORS FOR PHOTO AND BRIEF DISCUSSION.

2. SA CARNEIRO EXPLAINED HIS MISSION TO DEPSEC AND STATED
THAT USG SUPPORT VERY IMPORTANT NOW FOR PORTUGAL. HE
STATED THAT STABLE DEMOCRACY WAS AIM OF PPD. HE WENT ON
TO SAY THAT AFM'S ROLE WAS TO BE "GUARDIAN OF DEMOCRACY"
AND THAT AFM PROGRAM WAS "LIKE CONSTITUTION." HE ADMITTED
DANGERS OF LEFT-WING INFLUENCE IN AFM BUT THOUGHT THAT
EVEN IF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN DID NOT GO COMPLETELY ACCORDING
TO AFM DESIRES, POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS WAS UNLIKELY.

3. SA CARNEIRO, IN REPLY TO DEPSEC, SAID PCP WAS WELL-
ORGANIZED, AS IT WAS ONLY PARTY OPERATING DURING 50 YEAR

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DICTATORSHIP. NEVERTHELESS, HE BELIEVED ITS ELECTORAL

STRENGTH WOULD ONLY AMOUNT TO 10-15. HE RECOGNIZED PCP STRENGTH IN URBAN CENTERS BUT BELIEVED POPULATED NORTHERN PART OF COUNTRY WOULD REJECT COMMUNISM. FURTHERMORE, HE FELT THAT YEARS OF ANTI-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA

BY OLD REGIME HAD HAD ITS EFFECT AND WOULD IMPEDE PCP GAINS AT POLLS.

4. DEPSEC THEN DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF AMERICAN AID TO PORTUGAL, NOTING THAT TECHNICAL TALKS TEAM HAD BEEN IN LISBON LOOKING FOR PROJECTS. HE ALSO OUTLINED CONGRESSIONAL CONSTRAINTS. SA CARNEIRO REPLIED THAT US SHOULD ABANDON "WAIT AND SEE" ATTITUDE AND MOVE QUICKLY ALONG LINES SUGGESTED BY SEN KENNEDY. STABLER SAID WE HAVE SOME PROJECTS WHICH COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY AND THAT KENNEDY'S AMENDMENT, WHILE HELPFUL, WAS LONG-RANGE PROGRAM WHICH REQUIRED CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AS WELL AS AUTHORIZATION.

5. SA CARNEIRO COUNTERED BY STATING THAT SOVIET BLOC HAD BEGUN TO SEND AID BY OFFERING COMMERCIAL CREDITS, AND THAT PCP WAS BENEFICIARY OF SUCH PROGRAMS. HE WISHED WEST WOULD DO SOMETHING SIMILAR. DEPSEC REPLIED THAT IN FREE ECONOMY WE WERE UNABLE PROVIDE BARTER ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS THOSE OFFERED BY USSR, BUT THAT INsofar AS AID CONCERNED WE WOULD LOOK CAREFULLY INTO WHAT WE COULD DO. HE STRESSED THAT US FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY IN PORTUGAL AND THAT WE WISHED TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY THERE. ON OTHER HAND, WE COULD NOT SUPPORT ANY SPECIFIC POLITICAL PARTY BEFORE ELECTIONS. DEPSEC CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR VISIT, NOTING THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME AND VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF USG WERE ALL TO THE GOOD.

6. GROUP THEN MOVED TO SECRETARY'S OFFICE FOR PHOTO AND BRIEF CONVERSATION. SECRETARY STATED THAT USG INTERESTED IN DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION OF PORTUGAL AND WISHED TO DO SOMETHING CONCRETE TO HELP. HE ADDED THAT THERE IS NO LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OR INTEREST WITHIN USG, AND THAT FUTURE OF DEMOCRATIC PORTUGAL IS IMPORTANT TO
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FUTURE OF EUROPE.

7. SA CARNEIRO REPLIED THAT PPD TRYING TO ESTABLISH STABLE DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL AND THAT PPD ONLY NON-MARXIST PARTY RUNNING WHICH HAS CHANCE TO WIN. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY'S EXPLANATION OF USG DESIRE TO HELP AND SAID HE HOPED SUCH HELP WOULD COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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